

**National Library of Medicine  
Report of Activities  
ALA Annual Meeting  
June 2006**

**Voyager Upgrades**

In January, NLM upgraded Voyager and LocatorPlus to the Voyager Unicode release (2003.1.1) which provides the capability to create, search and display non-roman characters in bibliographic records. With this release, NLM began in-house cataloging using vernacular scripts. There are already over 4,000 records in the database in Japanese and Chinese vernacular characters, which came from previous cataloging contracts with OCLC. Vernacular data is supplied for all access points (authors, titles) and the edition and imprint. We anticipate that by the end of the June, most in-house cataloging of Chinese, Korean, Russian, Arabic and Hebrew monographs and serials will be done with vernacular scripts. NLM plans to upgrade to Voyager 6 on the weekend of July 1.

**Electronic Resources Management System**

Meridian 1.0 has been installed as a test environment. The project team is reviewing current workflows for electronic resources and identifying possible data sources for migrating existing data into Meridian. They are also making and documenting decisions on which DLF fields to use in the system and establishing standards for coding data.

NLM will go into production with Meridian when a filter is available from Endeavor that will allow bibliographic data to be maintained in Voyager and updated regularly in Meridian. The filter is expected to be developed after release 1.5 has been implemented. Once the filter is in place a new record load will be performed and the system will be considered in production.

**Review of RDA by NLM on Behalf of the Medical Library Association**

NLM did an extensive review of the draft part 1 of Resource Description and Access (RDA), and provided a very detailed list of comments and suggestions to improve this resource. Our comments were issued on behalf of MLA and the Library. Overall, NLM remains dismayed that, as presently constituted, RDA represents a largely a cosmetic revision, rather than a high-level reexamination of content. The major comments focused on the failure of the current draft to address several key points: 1) incorporation of rules to allow use of a single record to describe multiple entities in certain instances; 2) treatment of the description of a reproduction based on its original; 3) the definition of major/minor changes that restates whole cloth provisions of AACR2 (2002 revision) that NLM found problematic. NLM's view also is that RDA remains too ISBD-centric and should be reconstituted and expressed in terms of elements.

**2006 NLM Classification**

2006 revision to Classification was published on April 6, 2006. Fifteen new class numbers were added to the schedules and ninety-eight MeSH terms were added to the index, including fifty-seven new to the MeSH vocabulary as of 2006. In particular, the

sections dealing with proteins and bacteria were significantly updated. The new edition also includes an animated tutorial.

### **Access Level Cataloging for Serials**

NLM participated in the testing of the proposed access level cataloging for serials. The access level record proposal was developed as a way to meet all the user tasks defined in the IFLA document, *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records*, yet cut down on the amount of time it takes to create and maintain serial cataloging records, as well as the time it takes to train new catalogers. Catalogers created records at both full and access level for a variety of titles, recording the time spent on the various cataloging tasks. A variety of reviewers representing the reference, acquisitions, and indexing perspectives then looked at these records, and evaluated their usability. Overall response to the access level records was good. Based on the feedback from reviewers, some adjustments were made to the recommended data set (most notably adding back place of publication), and the CONSER membership approved the recommendation that the group go forward with making this streamlined record the single CONSER standard for serial record creation. The formal report and recommendation will be sent to the PCC after this ALA meeting.

### **Cooperative Project to Archive and Catalog NIH Videocasts**

NLM has undertaken a major project in cooperation with the National Institutes of Health's Center for Information Technology. The Center for Information Technology (CIT) makes special NIH events, seminars, and lectures available live to viewers on the NIH network and the Internet from its VideoCast web site. CIT will be archiving these videocasts for permanent access, and the Library will provide catalog records and enhanced metadata for selected titles, to enhance retrieval and access. Over 1500 titles already on the website were selected for cataloging and preliminary records have been added to LocatorPlus and the NLM Catalog, and are currently being upgraded. In addition, catalogers are providing catalog records for new videocasts as they are selected for the collection.

### **Personnel**

Three new catalogers joined NLM in April and May, Katarzyna Palmer, Carlos Fernos, and Craig Dowski.

Marti Scheel, head of the Cataloging Systems Unit, and long-time NLM MARBI representative, retired on May 31.

The Serial Records Section underwent a reorganization, effective March 1, 2006. New teams were formed with the intention of integrating all acquisitions tasks for all serial formats. Prior to the reorganization there was a unit for ordering and invoicing and another unit for receiving. The primary motivation for undertaking the reorganization was the need to achieve greater efficiency in processing print serials so that additional staff resources could be dedicated to managing electronic resources. Within the new structure assignments for each team are based on acquisition source. Members of the team are responsible for all aspects of managing the serials from that source including ordering, invoicing, vendor correspondence, problem resolution, receiving and claiming.

For electronic versions the teams will identify where online versions are available, obtain information about the terms of access and maintain records once online access is established. Decisions regarding priorities for new electronic resources, as well as the review and negotiation of licenses, are still centralized at the management level. The reorganization has required a significant training effort. However, the time spent reviewing and updating numerous policies and procedures and training staff in new aspects of serials work has been well spent.